

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRANCE, FRG COORDINATE CSCE STRATEGY

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT LAST WEEK'S MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS GENSCHER AND DE GUIRINGAUD IRONED OUT MANY OF THE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE FRG ON STRATEGY FOR THE BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO AN FRG SOURCE, THE FRENCH PREFER TO LIMIT THE CONFERENCE TO AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL POSITIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID PUTTING THE SOVIET UNION ON THE DEFENSIVE, WHILE THE GER-MANS PREFER WORKING SESSIONS AND A DETAILED COMMUNIQUE. IN WHAT COULD PREFIGURE AN EVENTUAL EC NINE APPROACH, THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT:

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--THE CSCE SHOULD HAVE BOTH PLENARY AND WORKING SESSIONS, WITH A FINAL COMMUNIQUE SOMEWHAT MORE THAN "SKELETAL."

--THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING PUBLIC POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE BLOC, DESPITE THE PRECEDENT BEING SET BY THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION.

QUAI CSCE COORDINATOR BEAUCHATAUD LATER TOLD THE EMBASSY THE FRENCH REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO NEW PROPOSALS AT BELGRADE WHICH MIGHT ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO OPEN UP THE FINAL ACT FOR REVISIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 4135, 2/9.)

2. BENIN BELABORS "COLONIALIST" COUP

EMBASSY COTONOU REPORTS THAT BENIN HAS BEGUN TO STEP UP THE ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IT LAUNCHED FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S COUP ATTEMPT. IN AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH FEBRUARY 2, PRESIDENT KEREKOU CHARGED THAT THE ATTACK WAS AN ATTEMPT AT "COLONIAL RECONQUEST" BY THE "FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM." THIS THEME HAS BEEN SECONDED BY NORTH KOREAN AND CUBAN DIPLOMATS IN COTONOU AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED BY RADIO BROADCASTS, WHICH HAVE ADDED AN ANTI-WHITE BIAS PREVIOUSLY RARE IN BENIN. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE INCREASED PROPAGANDA MAY BE AIMED AT KEEPING EMOTIONS HIGH UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION BENIN HAS UNDERTAKEN WITH NIGERIA AND GUINEA ARE RELEASED. (CONFIDENTIAL) COTONOU 295, 2/9.)

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